

Remarks/Arguments

In the Final Office Action dated November 1, 2007, it is noted that claims 1-27 are pending; that claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102; that the drawings submitted on October 4, 2004 have been accepted; that the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 has been acknowledged; and that all certified copies of priority documents have been received.

By this response, claims 1 and 22 have been amended to clarify an aspect of the present invention. No new matter has been added.

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following remarks, it is submitted that the claims pending in the application are novel and nonobvious. It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicant's representative thanks Examiner Nigar Chowdhury and Examiner Robert Chevalier for their courtesies during a telephone interview on December 11, 2007. It is understood that the Examiner will be preparing and filing a summary of interview. It is noted that the claim amendments and the arguments below were proposed and discussed during the interview.

Rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,847,778 (hereinafter "Vallone"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 21, and 22 are independent claims. Claims 2-20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent base claim 1. Claims 23-27 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent base claim 22. The dependent claims include all the limitations of their respective independent base claims.

Claim 1 calls, in part, for:

A video playback apparatus having means to invoke one of a replay function and a reverse function upon receipt of a first signal, wherein said replay function is activated in response to said first signal exhibiting a first duration of time and wherein said reverse function is activated in response to said first signal exhibiting a second duration of time different from said first duration, and means to invoke one of a skip function and a

forward function upon receipt of a second signal different from the first signal, wherein said skip function is activated in response to said second signal exhibiting a third duration of time and wherein said forward function is activated in response to said second signal exhibiting a fourth duration of time different from said third duration.

Based on the duration of a received first signal, either the replay function or the reverse function is activated. Similarly, based on the duration of a received second signal, either the skip function or the forward function is activated.

Vallone fails to teach, show, or suggest any functionality in which the same received control signal, differentiated only on the basis of time duration of a received control signal allows the selection or activation of one function (e.g., replay) over another function (e.g., reverse). Vallone apparently uses different signals to invoke different operations as opposed to a different characteristic, such as time duration, of the same signal. Nowhere in the cited section of Vallone or in the entirety of Vallone is there a teaching of the elements as defined in Applicant's claim 1.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that Vallone does not anticipate claim 1 and the claims dependent directly and indirectly therefrom. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-20 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 is a method claim including limitations similar in nature to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that Vallone does not anticipate claim 21. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 21 is allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 22 calls, in part, for,

*“a receiver for receiving the external speed control signal, the external speed control signal exhibiting one of a first duration of time and at least a second duration of time, wherein the first duration is different from the second duration;
a microprocessor for selecting the playback speed according to the duration of the external speed control signal wherein a first playback speed is selected in response to the external speed control signal exhibiting the first duration of time and wherein a second playback speed different from the first playback speed is selected in response to the external speed control signal exhibiting the second duration of time.”*

As stated above with respect to claim 1, Vallone lacks any teaching, showing, or remote suggestion that his functionality is dependent upon the duration of a received external speed control signal. So it is believed that Vallone does not anticipate claim 22 and the claims dependent either directly or indirectly therefrom. It is therefore submitted

that claims 22-27 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

In the event there are any errors with respect to the fees for this response or any other papers related to this response, the Director is hereby given permission to charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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